

THE REHEARSAL.

1. The *Observer Reviv'd* makes the *Presbyterian Rabblers* in Scotland to be *Many* and but a *Few*.
2. He supposes no Person of *Note* among them, to excuse *Maggy Steen*.
3. The Argument turn'd against them either way.
4. Why the *Rabb'd Clergy* were not *Restor'd*. Because they *Resolv'd* to *Abolish Episcopacy* afterwards.
5. The Sole Cause of their *Deprivation* was *Episcopacy*.
6. And they *Cannot Now* be *Admitted* to take the *Oaths* to the *Government*, without being first *Assum'd* by the *Kirk-Judicatories*.

SATURDAY, December 13. 1707.

Rehearsal.

Come, Country-man, make good the Charge you promis'd last time upon the *Observer Reviv'd* Num. 4. under pain of being thought an Errant Banterer and False Accuser.

(1.) Country-man. I said, That the Reason he gives why the *Attors* in the *Rabbling* the *Clergy* were not *Punish'd*, was, because they were so *Many*, and so *Few*. First for the *Many*, he says, To *Punish* such a *Multitude* at that time was perhaps not *Convenient*. Now I conceive that *Multitude* means *Many*, and such a *Multitude* as was not *Convenient* even for the *Government* to *Punish*. Here he was upon *Magnifying* the *Strength* of the *Party*. But presently after he falls to *Lessening*, when he was *Answering* the *Objection* of *Persecution* that was laid against them, and *Concludes* his *Paper* thus, So that upon the whole this can be *Reckon'd* no *Act* of *Persecution*, being only an *Irregularity* of some exasperated desperate people.

Now is not the word *Some* here what you call a *Diminutive*, that is a *Lessening* or making their Number *Fewer*? It cannot be Call'd a *Persecution* by the *Body* of the *Presbyterians*, because it was done only by a *Few* of them, by *SOME* *Exasperated* and *Desperate* People! For he would not have the *Generality* of them thought an *Exasperated* and *Desperate* People! Now then the *Rabblers* were but *Few*, only a *Some* of the *Presbyterians*. But if you talk of *Punishing* them (or *Reducing* them to *Order*) then perhaps it was not *Convenient* for the *Government* it self to *Provoke* Such a *MULTITUDE* as that was! Thus they are *More* or *Less*, *Formidable* or *Despicable*, just as it serves their turn! And in the same *Breath* too, with-

in 20 lines of one another, to shew what short *Memories* these *Great Wits* have!

(2.) Rehears. You have made out this Point so well, that I will Try you with another. The *Objection* lay before him, That tho' that *Multitude* of the *Rabblers* was so *Great*, as not to be *Convenient* for the *Government* to *Punish*, yet that some of the *Ring-Leaders* might have been made *Examples*, as is *Usual* in such *Cases*; to which he *Answers*, No doubt, *Roger*, if there cou'd have been found any Person of *Note* among them, he had been taken *Notice* of.

Country-m. He had been taken *Notice* of— But what if it was a *She*? This was to *Screen* the *Colonel* of the *White Regiment* (of which you told me before) who was the *Principal Actor* of that *Barbarous Rabbling* the *Clergy* at *Glasgow*. Such a *Slut*, *Drunk* with *Zeal* and *Brandy*, well deserv'd to be *Whipt* at the *Cart* *Tayl*, or sent to the *Ducking-stool*. But she had a *Bible* presented to her *Particularly* for her *Zeal*, if I remember right the *Story* as it was told me. But it is more *Authentick* what you told Us *Num. 8.* of this *Volume*, That particular Favours were *Granted* to that *City* by the 15 *Act*. of 2 *Sess.* of 1 *Parliament* of *K. W. and Q. M.* as it is *Express'd* in the *Act*, for the *Zeal* of the *Community* of the said *City* for the *Protestant Religion*. This was all the *Punishment* I ever heard of was *Inflicted* upon that *Inhuman Presbyterian Mob*, for their *Barbarous Treatment* of the *Clergy*!

(3.) Rehears. Well done, Country-man. Let me now put in a *Word*. If no Person of greater *Note* than this *Drunken Colonel Maggy Steen*, was to be found in that *Rabbling*

Rabbling of the Clergy, and that this was the best Appearance the Presbyterian Cause could make, what a Vile Contemptible Figure do they make!

But on the other hand, if this Mobb was set on and encourag'd by their Principal Men behind the Curtain, then with what Sincerity can this *Observer* and the rest of their *Advocats*, turn all this upon the *Rabble*, and wipe their *Mouths*, as having done no Evil!

(4.) But now, *Country-man*, let us hear how you make good the other Part of your Charge upon this *Observer*, That the Reason he gives why these *Rabbl'd* Clergy were not Restor'd by the Government, was because *Episcopacy* was afterwards Abolish'd. For this seems too Ridiculous for any Man of Common Sense to Assert.

Country-m. He says, The Government cou'd not prudently impose Episcopal Ministers, when *Episcopacy* had been Declar'd a Grievance by the Convention of Estates. Here he talks of Imposing, but the Question is of Restoring, why the Episcopal Clergy who had been Rabbl'd out of their Churches, against all Law, were not Restor'd, till they shou'd have been fairly outed by Law? This is the Question, to which he Answers nothing. But he says, That the Convention Declar'd *Episcopacy* a Grievance. But why did they not first Restore the Clergy who had been Unjustly Ejected, as themselves must Confess? How did they know which of them wou'd have Comply'd with Presbyterian Government? It seems by this, That they were Resolv'd to Admit of none who ever had been Episcopal. And I will not Deny the Prudence of this. I wish others wou'd take the like Care. But they being Resolv'd to Abolish *Episcopacy* (for they knew at first how the Game wou'd go) wou'd not for that Reason (and this *Observer* says it wou'd not have been Prudent in them to) Restore (which he calls to Impose) the Episcopal Clergy. Is it not True then what I said, That the Clergy cou'd not be Restor'd, because *Episcopacy* was afterwards to be Abolished? Is not this the very Case, even as this *Observer* puts it?

(5.) Rehears. It is very Clear. And let me here mind the English Clergy who are Concern'd in the Collections for their Distress'd Brethren in Scotland, how grossly this *Observer* and others wou'd impose upon them, to make them believe, that ther is nothing at all of *Episcopacy* in the Sufferings of the Scots Clergy, and that none of them were Depriv'd of their Churches, but meerly for Refusing the Oaths to the Government: When here they see about

three hundred of them, first Rabbl'd, and then Rejected by the Convention, for the sole and single Cause of *Episcopacy*, before ther was any Test whatsoever of Oaths impos'd. And all these are kept out to this Day, Languishing and Starving, with their Wives and Children. A Sight wou'd move the Heart of a Scythian!

(6.) And if any of them had a Mind to take the Oaths now, he cou'd not be Admitted, without being first Assu'd by the Kirk Indictories, as I have shew'd in mine of the 12 and 13 last Month, No. 10. 11. And I know no body wou'd take the Oaths for nothing. Especially where they have been so us'd. Therefor let none Blame these Clergy for not taking the Oaths, unless they Blame them likewise for not turning Presbyterians. And shall the Charity of Episcopal Men be Restrain'd from them for this? Shall these Barbarians be Listen'd to, who use all their Craft and Cunning to Blacken them, and obstruct any Relief to be given them? But wou'd have us all Cry with them, No, let them Starve!

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